

Key messages from the 23 February 2026 Executive Oversight Committee (EOC)

Governance

The Wolgan Road Reconstruction Project is governed by a Project Control Group (PCG) and an Executive Oversight Committee (EOC). This committee comprises senior officers from Lithgow City Council, the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Transport for NSW.

The EOC provides senior level governance, coordination and oversight to ensure the project progresses in a safe, transparent and accountable way, in line with disaster recovery funding and environmental requirements.

This governance structure ensures coordinated decision-making and accountability across all involved agencies.

EOC Key priorities

- **Restoring access:** Progressing interim works to enable reopening of the existing Wolgan Road under controlled conditions as soon as possible, including opportunities to expedite minor works, approvals and procurement.
- **Safety first:** Ensuring the reopening of the existing Wolgan Road provides adequate protections for the safety of the community and other road users.
- **Open communications:** To ensure that the Wolgan Valley community is kept informed of the deliberations of the EOC and throughout the progress of the interim reopening of Wolgan Road and the decision making process for the overall project.

Summary of the 23 February 2026 EOC meeting

Senior officers from the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Lithgow City Council, and Transport for NSW met on 23 February 2026 as the EOC for the Wolgan Road Reconstruction Project. A summary of the key meeting discussions and outcomes is as follows.

The EOC acknowledged the Wolgan Valley Association (WVA) feedback received on 11 February 2026 regarding the 29 January 2026 EOC Key Messages and noted that EOC endorsed responses had been uploaded to the project website on 23 February 2026.

Interim reopening of Wolgan Road

Lithgow City Council, supported by specialist consultants, is progressing planning and design for interim works to manage the reopening of Wolgan Road.

Key points agreed upon by the EOC include:

- The GHD Interim Reopening of Wolgan Road Geotechnical Report will be publicly released by 9 March 2026 following EOC endorsement.
- The project team is exploring opportunities to expedite safe and practicable interim access for residents and bona fide business operations. This includes escorted customer, supplier and trade access, similar to the arrangements for Donkey Steps.
- At completion, the interim works will allow access for up to 12.5 metre trucks and most two-wheel drive vehicles.
- A project delivery strategy is nearing finalisation, outlining a staged procurement approach to align scope items with the most efficient delivery method. Transaction activities, including preparing tender and contract documents, have commenced and will ramp up in the weeks ahead.
- GHD will now commence preparing detailed design documents for contractor procurement.

- Early works such as culvert cleaning, clearing and grubbing and barrier installations are currently being procured by contract variation through an existing local contractor currently working on Wolgan Road. Procurement for the supply and installation of the weather station has also commenced.
- These interim works will not eliminate all geotechnical hazards and risks but will adopt the ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) approach to minimise risk.

Subject to final approvals, the finalisation of a procurement strategy and the engagement of a delivery contractor by Q2 2026, the earliest anticipated timeframe for interim reopening is Q3 2026. Once the EOC endorses delivery strategies, a program will be shared with the community.

Planning for a permanent solution

While interim reopening efforts are underway, long-term permanent solutions are being progressed concurrently. Key points from the EOC include:

- GHD has begun exploring strategic design options for a permanent solution along the existing Wolgan Road alignment.
- Multiple options will be evaluated through a structured, independent, evidence-based process considering safety, resilience, cost, constructability and environmental factors.
- An EOC-endorsed multi-criteria assessment (MCA) will compare options before a preferred solution is confirmed. This MCA will assess options against a balanced set of criteria beyond safety, including time to restore reliable access, community resilience, economic activity impacts, environmental effects, constructability, affordability, and whole-of-life value. Draft criteria and proposed weightings will be published for community feedback before finalising the MCA, ensuring consistent application across options.
- Community input will be sought as options are refined and assessed.

What the Community can expect next

The EOC confirmed ongoing engagement with the community, including:

- The next online Community Webinar is scheduled for 22 April 2026. Registration information will be shared on the project website in early April.
- Publication of key messages and updates on the Council's website following EOC meetings.

Closing message

Council and the NSW Government acknowledge the substantial and ongoing impact of the Wolgan Road closure on the community. While reopening and restoring the road is a complex process, all agencies remain committed to:

- Restoring access as soon as practically possible.
- Improving safety outcomes.
- Delivering a long-term solution that is resilient, sustainable and community-supported.

Thank you for your continued patience and engagement as this important work progresses.